

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SAM-01 IO-14 DOTE-00

NIC-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /124 W
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O P 041100Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0156

INFO USMISSION BERLIN PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG

USELM LIVE OAK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 01797

CINCEUR, CINCUSAFE, CINCUSAREUR FOR POLADS; LIVE OAK FOR
US EYES ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, WB, GE

SUBJECT: MONDAY MORNING FRG REACTION TO
WEEKEND TRANSIT TRAFFIC DIFFICULTIES

REF: (A) BERLIN 214; (B) BONN 1778

1. TRANSIT TRAFFIC DIFFICULTIES NIGHT FEB 1ST
APPARENTLY WERE NOT CONTINUED DURING THE REST OF THE
WEEKEND, WITH THE RESULT THAT FRG BROADCAST MEDIA LARGELY
IGNORED THE QUESTION SUNDAY AND MONDAY MORNING.
HOWEVER, CATCHING UP ON A WEEKEND NOT REplete WITH BIG
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NEWS STORIES, MAJOR FRG NEWSPAPERS GAVE PROMINENT PLAY

THIS MORNING TO THE TRANSIT TRAFFIC PROBLEMS IN GENERAL AND A CALL BY OPPOSITION INNER-GERMAN POLITICAL EXPERT MARX FOR PROMPT MEETING OF THE INNER-GERMAN TRANSIT TRAFFIC COMMISSION. (ADDRESSEES WILL RECALL REF B REPORT THAT FRG NOT INCLINED AS OF FEB 1ST TO CONVENE SUCH A SESSION PRIOR TO NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING FEB 14.)

2. MARX'S CALL WAS EASILY THE DOMINANT STORY EMERGING MONDAY MORNING FROM THE FRIDAY TRANSIT TRAFFIC DIFFICULTIES. THE OPPOSITION SPOKESMAN SAID, "THE COMMISSION IS THE INSTRUMENT THAT THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC MUST USE IN CONNECTION WITH THE RECENT INCIDENTS." CONSERVATIVE DIE WELT, IN REPORTING MARX'S REMARKS, COMMENTED BOTH IN NEWS STORIES AND EDITORIALY THAT THE GDR IS OBVIOUSLY TRYING TO ERODE PRACTICAL BENEFITS STEMMING FROM THE QA "STEP BY STEP". DIE WELT CONCLUDES BY URGING TOUGH FRG RESPONSE TO RECENT GDR MOVES ON THE TRANSIT ROUTES, AND ASKS "WHAT IS WILLY BRANDT WAITING FOR?" OTHER MAJOR FRG NEWSPAPERS, WHILE REPORTING MARX'S STATEMENT, LIMIT THEMSELVES MORE TO SUMMARIZING THE FACTUAL SITUATION AS IT DEVELOPED FROM SPORADIC REPORTS FROM THE BORDER DURING THE WEEKEND. THE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE, FOR EXAMPLE, DREW FROM BAVARIAN BORDER POLICE REPORTS A PICTURE OF GDR CONTROLS NOT ONLY ON THE AUTOBAHNS TO BERLIN BUT ON OTHER HIGHWAYS, ALL ELBE BRIDGES AND RAILROAD STATIONS. THE FAZ REPORTED TRAFFIC HAD RETURNED TO NORMAL BY SATURDAY. GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ'S REMARKS (PARA 3 REF A) WIDELY REPORTED IN FRG SUNDAY AND MONDAY PRESS. OTHER DETAILS REPORTED IN FEB 4 PRESS TENDED TO FOLLOW LINES REFTELS.

3. THE BONN GROUP WILL BE MEETING THIS MORNING TO DISCUSS THE RECENT TRANSIT TRAFFIC PROBLEMS AND WE WILL REPORT FURTHER INFORMATION THAT MAY BECOME AVAILABLE.
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BERLIN ACCESS, INFORMATION MEDIA, TRANSPORTATION, BORDER CONTROLS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BONN01797
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740259/aaaaccya.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) BERLIN 214; (B) BONN 1778
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAR 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <31 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MONDAY MORNING FRG REACTION TO WEEKEND TRANSIT TRAFFIC DIFFICULTIES
TAGS: PGOV, WB, GC, GE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005